— Shah Alloys, Ahmedabad

— SMS Demag, Germany

— Avesta Sheffield, Swedan

(c) and (d) The pre-qualification criteria indicated in the advertisement issued by SAIL for seeking 'Expression of Interest' envisaged that the strategic partner(s) should have :

— Sound technical, financial and managerial expertise in the area of stainless steel production.

— A minimum of ten years of consistent and proven experience in the production of quality stainless steel in different grades of AISI 300 and 400 series-particularly in 304 and 430 grades in hot rolled and cold rolled coils.

— Preferably, demonstrable experience of marketing stainless steel products in the international arena with a global network.

— Net worth in excess of Rs. 5,000 million (Rupees five thousand milion only) US $ 115 million (US Dollars One hundred fifteen million only).

The advertisement also indicated that the Strategic Partner shall comply with SAIL's decision to absorb all personnel presently working in SSP, with full protection of their existing compensation packages and other service conditions, in case of joint venture through equity participation in Salem Steel Plant.

(e) M/s. JM Morgan Stanly Ltd. (JMMS) have been appointed as Financial Adviser for resturcturing of Salem Steel Plant.

(f) SAIL has indicated that the extent to which the production of steel is likely to be increased in SSP will be known only after finalisation of the strategic alliance partner.

Production and SALE Targets for B.S.P.

3179. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) The target set by Bhilai Steel Plant for production and sale during 1999-2000 and how many tonnes of steel was sold in domestic and foreign market during last financial year;

(b) whether the present target for production and sale is more than the target set for the last year; and

(c) if so, what is the difference between the two?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The targets set for Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) for production and sale of saleable steel during 1999-2000 were 3.27 MT and 3.64 MT respectively. 2.95 MT and 0.42 MT of steel were sold in the domestic and foreign markets respectively during the last financial year;

(b) Target set for the present year is more in case of production of saleable steel and less in case of sales.

(c) The difference in the targets for production and sale between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are (+) 2,30,000 tonnes for production and (-) 2,72,000 tonnes for sales.

Privatisation of Visveswariah Iron and Steel Company

3180. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to privatise Visveswariah Iron and Steel Company in Bhadravathi, Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) that has been approved by the Government includes, *inter-alia,* initiation of the process of formation of a joint venture for Visveswaraiah Iron & Steel Plant (VISP) while protecting the jobs of existing employees.

Poor Tribals Joining PWG in A.P.

3181. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether poverty is forcing the poor tribals of certain areas like Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh to join People's War Group; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to assist the tribals to get the benefit of all Government sponsored schemes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM) : (a) and (b) Naxalism in Nizamabad is mainly Socio-Economic based Law and Order problem involving different sections of society and not only the tribals.